

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Chileans scramble for supplies after new quake



Picture of a lorry destroyed by parts of a building damaged by a quake and aftershocks

IQUIQUE (AFP) - Chileans desperate for supplies stood in long lines outside shops yesterday after strong aftershocks from a deadly 8.2-magnitude earthquake forced them to spend another night out in the cold.

After six people were killed in late Tuesday's earthquake, northern Chile was rocked by a powerful 7.6-

magnitude aftershock Wednesday night, forcing thousands of people to evacuate their homes once more.

President Michelle Bachelet, who was assessing damage from the first jolt, was among those forced to flee as the latest temblor sowed terror among already exhausted and nervous residents in the earthquake-prone region.

The new quake struck in the Pacific Ocean at 11:43 pm, 19 kilometers (12 miles) south of the northern coastal city of Iquique, the US Geological Survey said.

There were no reports of new fatalities or major damage and authorities lifted a tsunami alert after two hours. Peru to the north did the same.



Philips and Aruba sign "Memorandum of Innovation"

On investigating what is the best illumination for Aruba using LED

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Libya rebels hail progress in talks on reopening oil ports

BENGHAZI (AFP) - Rebels demanding autonomy for eastern Libya said yesterday they had made progress in talks with the central government on reopening key oil ports they closed to exports last July.

A rebel spokesman said a first port might reopen as early as next week, raising hopes of an end to a nine-month blockade Tripoli says has cost the

country more than \$14 billion in lost oil revenues.

The prospect of a return of Libyan oil to the market, after the blockade slashed exports from 1.5 million barrels a day to just 250,000, prompted a sharp dip in world prices yesterday before a rally later.

Wednesday's meeting in the rebel-held port of Brega came two weeks after US Navy SEALs seized a tanker loaded with rebel oil in international waters in the Mediterranean, effectively ending their hopes of exporting crude in defiance of the central government.

The Tripoli authorities on Monday released three rebels who had been detained on the tanker in a bid to advance the negotiations.

Market analysts said rising expectations of an end to the blockade had had a major dampening effect on world prices before a rebound later in the day.

Brent North Sea crude for May shed \$1.16 to \$104.46 a barrel at midday in London before climbing \$1.03 to stand at \$105.82 a barrel in late afternoon deals.

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2014 King's Day: Free day for all Aruba schools!

pg 2

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The best of the old and enhanced makes the nightly buffet at La Vista is sensational!

NOORD -- Hearty appetites and seafood lovers will be thrilled by the new menu debuted recently by La Vista restaurant in the Marriott Aruba Resort & Stellaris Casino. Always a favorite with THE MORNING NEWS crew, management has refreshed the selection, retaining the best of their former Italian theme, but with a much greater emphasis on fresh fish and seafood, aptly renamed "Seafood Sensation."



Since we are all seafood fanatics, we could not be more pleased at the bottomless bowls of plump shrimp cocktail (already peeled...a very nice and appreciated touch!) and crab legs, as well as the unlimited Alaska King

for this fresh-from-the-oven favorite. There is an excellent selection of alternative to seafood dishes, such as prime rib, chicken-of-the-day, and local delicacies Keshi Yena and funchi on the hot table.

Restaurant Manager Ivan

Diaz admitted they refreshed the menu based on feedback from their regular patrons, adjusting to the changes they expressed they would like to see. Island media was invited to sample the spectacular selection and meet the new Director of Sales & Marketing, Carolina Voulieme, who proved to be a very charming hostess. Taste-testers from



New Director of Sales and Marketing Carolina Voulieme with Ivan Diaz La Vista Mgr and Keisen

Thursday's they conduct a carnival show on the restaurant's beachside terrace, and on Saturday evenings they also feature unlimited fresh Caribbean lobster for an additional \$15.



Antipasto table

The eatery is also known for an amazing daily breakfast buffet and a very special Sunday brunch. Aside from the buffet, La Vista has a nice a la carte menu to please all their patrons.

various local media sources were uniformly impressed with the diversity and delectability of the new menu, as well as the appealing presentation.

The La Vista Seafood Sensation menu is available seven days a week for \$39.95; the quality is excellent, from the amazing bread selection to the fantastic desserts, and worth every penny.



Ceviche and mussels station

Crab, giant scallops and shrimp and assortment of fish in the grill and sauté station.

Still evident was a sumptuous antipasto bar, right across from the ceviche and salad station and pizza parlor,



local dishes keshi yena and funchi

2014 King's Day: Free day for all Aruba schools



ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Department of Education (DEA) together with the Ministry of Education confirm that for 2014 they will observe the 30th of April as a free day from school for all schools on the island.

In January 2013 the Dutch Information Service announced that, as of 2014, they will celebrate King's Day on the actual date of King Willem-Alexander's birth, which is April 27th.

When this information was announced, the school's vacation roster for school year 2013-2014 was already approved and published. For this reason Aruba chose not to change the free day related to the 2014 King's Day and to maintain Wednesday, April 30, 2014 as a free school day for all Aruba schools.

Please note that this is exclusively for schools and only valid for the year 2014.

2015 King's Day

With respect to the year 2015, the free day for King's Day will be Monday, April 27th, 2015 in accordance with the vacation roster for school

year 2014-2015.

Vacation Rosters:

The procedure for establishing the vacation roster for schools is as follows: The Department of Education prepares a concept roster. The Inspectorate of Education, School Boards and SIMAR give their input, and a proposal is sent to the Minister of Education for approval.

ATV Days:

ATV days are stipulated by the Department of Human Resources (DRH) and a proposal is sent to the Council of Ministers. The approved days are published in accordance with the ATV ordinance. This takes place in the month of November every year.

For the official approval and publication of the Vacation Roster and ATV days, visit the website of the Department of Education www.ea.aw, look for the letter V in the pull down menu.

For any further information, please visit their website or contact them on face book at: [facebook.com/education-aruba](https://www.facebook.com/education-aruba).

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Tickets now on sale for the Soul Beach Music Festival 2014

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Tourism Authority was very pleased to welcome the producers of the Soul Beach Music Festival, Mark Adkins and Carl Welch, for the official announcement of the line-up and that tickets are now on sale on Aruba for island residents at a special local price.

Mark Adkins was very excited about the talent who will be appearing for three nights over Memorial Day Weekend, beginning on Friday, May 23, with the comedy night starring Ricky Smiley. It was also announced that the comedy concert has changed venue from the Aruba Entertainment Center to the Renaissance Convention Center. Saturday and Sunday's concerts will be at their usual location at Surfside, on the wide expanse of beach behind the Plaza Turismo.

Saturday evening's headliner is 10-time Grammy winner Kenny "Babyface"

Edmonds. "We are elated to have Hit-Maker and performing Super Star Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds as a co-Headliner for this year's Soul Beach Music Festival," expressed Adkins. "The combination of Babyface's music and Aruba's beautiful destination are sure to be a one of kind experience that will evoke a lifetime of memories for all attendees."



Babyface

Sharing the stage that evening will be one of the great soul vocalists, Ashanti, who set a Soundscan record as the biggest opening week sales for a new female artist,

outselling debuts by Alicia Keys and Lauryn Hill. In 2003, the self-titled debut album won Ashanti her first Grammy Award for Best Contemporary R&B album. The singer and actress has a long list of TV and film credits.

Returning to the festival to star in Sunday's concert is Robin Thicke, whose recent release, *Blurred Lines*, is a worldwide hit reaching number one in 13 countries, including the United Kingdom. It peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot 100.

"We're thrilled to end the six days of power-packed events of Soul Beach Music Festival 2014 with a performance by Robin Thicke, a magnetic performer who really resonates with his fans," expressed the CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes. "With music at the core of our island roots, Aruba will continue to push the limits to provide high-caliber performances from the industry's most esteemed talent."

Joining Thicke on the stage for the final concert will be SWV (Sisters with Voices) Cheryl Gamble, Tamara Johnson and group founder Leanne Lyons. Their debut album was certified triple platinum and the SBMF is thrilled to have this classic group as part of their line-up



SBMF Producers and local sponsors

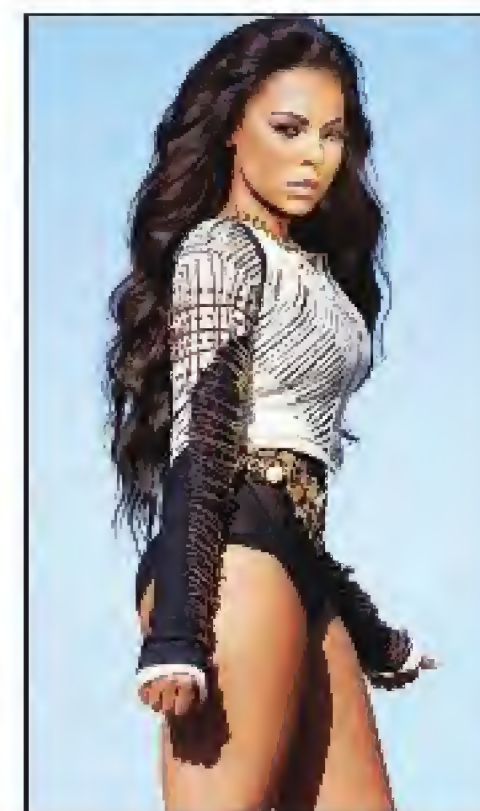
after they reunited from an eight-year hiatus performing as a group.

As always, the SBMF action will begin the Wednesday prior to the holiday, with beach parties during the day, nightclubbing till the wee hours, and exciting media events with TV and radio personalities broadcasting live from Aruba continually throughout the festival.

Adkins and Welch detailed their huge media campaign, with non-stop radio sweepstakes and promotional programs targeting key cities across the U.S. and a remarkable buzz generated on Internet social media, which confirms the enormous popularity of the event.

Tickets are now on sale at several outlets at a special price for island residents for which proof is required. They are \$45 per ticket, while supplies last, with a limit of six tickets per purchase. Vendors are Dragon CD & Electronics in San Nicolas, Fun Miles Office, which will also accept

fun miles to purchase tickets, Insel Air - Oranjestad, MooMba Beach Bar & Restaurant, Reflections in Oranjestad, select SETAR shops, Sopranos Piano Bar in Palm Beach, and the Valero stations on the Boulevard, Essoville, Palm Beach, in Ponton and Santa Cruz.



Braveheart

To keep up with last minute changes, visiting media celebrities attending the event and other exciting news of the 14th edition of the Soul Beach Music Festival on Aruba, visit their website or Facebook page.



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12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner
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Philips and Aruba sign "Memorandum of Innovation"



ORANJESTAD -- Aruba and the Philips Company have recently entered into an agreement to work together on investigating what is the best illumination for Aruba using LED technology. The idea behind this agreement is to create a system of illumination much more efficient and sustainable. This will obviously mean a substantial saving in the cost of energy.

This will also help in the reduction of the amount of CO₂ normally emitted into our atmosphere.

This agreement will result in a win-win situation for Aruba and for the Philips Company. Aruba will receive an efficient and modern illumination network, and Philips is interested in this opportunity for a live "show case" of their technology.

Aruba will show their clients how practical and economic the use of LED is.

The modernization will be the equivalent of a savings of \$1.2 - \$1.7 million of energy costs per year, according to the Minister of Economics and Energy Affairs. Along with this they calculate that the CO₂ emission will decrease between 3000 to 4000 tons once the LED technology system is in place and functioning.

According to the Prime Minister, this partnership will contribute to the sustainable economic development that Aruba is seeking. Philips is also going to do a study to reduce the energy expenses on public buildings on Aruba.

Philips is proud to partner with Aruba and to help the island realize her goal of becoming one of the most sustainable markets in the region and around the World.



Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Appetizers: Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

Entrees: Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

Land & Sea
Chicken Breast, Steak & Shrimps with rice and vegetables

Breaded Chicken Breast served with mushroom sauce, topped with cheese served with vegetables and stuffed potato

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RBC Royal Bank (Aruba) NV and FTA sign CAO accord



ORANJESTAD -- Last Monday, March 31, representatives of RBC Royal Bank (Aruba) NV and the labor union FTA sign a labor (CAO) agreement. The CAO is for three years (January 2013 to December 2015).

Negotiating this agreement for RBC were Manager Human Resources, Sr. Ivan Nava (Lead negotiator) and Sra. Lidia Jong-Tromp (Negotiator). Negotiating for the FTA were FTA President Rudy Geerman (Lead nego-

tiator) and Mrs. Sra. Dijkhoff-Fabus, Mr. Winterdal, Mr. Oduber and Mr. Giel.

The signing is proof that the two negotiating parties reached a mutual agreement for the benefit of the RBC's employees as well as for the organization.

RBC Country Manager Aruba Mr. Pierre Rafini expressed his satisfaction with both parties. During the whole process they demonstrated their professionalism which, at the end, concluded

in the signing of the agreement in an amicable atmosphere.

Photo shows moment of the signing: l.to r. Shop Steward Mariela Dijkhoff-Fabus, RBC Country Manager Aruba Pierre Rafini and FTA President Rudy Geerman.

Standing, l. to r., Shop Steward Jerald Winterdal, RBC Negotiator Lidia Jong-Tromp, Shop Steward Albert Oduber, RBC Lead Negotiator Ivan Nava, and Shop Steward Ryan Giel.

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Lugar: Kapel den Marinierskazerne
Entrada: Afl. 5,00

Cancion ta obtenido cu e administracion di Scol di Musica Rufo Wever na Cas di Cultura y Savaneta y en Kapel Marinierskazerne dia di e concierto.

Reservacion: Admision ta obligatorio (cedula, ribentij of paspartu)

The Aruban Music school 'Scol di Musica Rufo Wever' presents, under supervision of Albert Croes, Catherine Provence, Rob Rijnhout and Daniel Werleman, her pupil concert 'Encanto'.

Place: Chapel, Dutch Marine Base, Savaneta
Date: Sunday April 6th 2014
Time: 7 PM
Fee: AWG 5,-

Tickets are available at the administration of the music school 'Scol di Musica Rufo Wever', Cas di Cultura, second floor and at the evening of the concert in the Chapel, Dutch Marine Base, Savaneta.

Dutch police: Rotterdam at center of European cocaine trade, say Dutch police

THE HAGUE -- Rotterdam is one of the most important centres for the global cocaine trade and between 25% and 50% of western and central European consumption is smuggled through the port city, according to Dutch police.

The police base their claim on 2013 drug seizures which show Rotterdam has overtaken Antwerp as the centre of the western European trade. The claim was made at a seminar on the cocaine trade.

Last year Belgian police seized 4,800 kilos of cocaine in Antwerp while Rotterdam seizures totalled almost 10,000 kilos. But in 2012, Dutch police found just 3,600 kilos of cocaine in Rotterdam, compared with 18,000 kilos in Antwerp.

The police stress that the exact volume of cocaine im-

ports is hard to quantify. Only 50,000 of the 11 million containers which reach the port every year are scanned, on the basis of a risk profile.

Rotterdam professor of criminology Henk van de Bunt told the paper the focus on Schiphol airport may have influenced the switch to Rotterdam.

All passengers arriving from Curacao, the Dutch Antilles, Venezuela and Suriname are checked for drugs. This has led to a 33% drop in smuggling, Van de Bunt said.

Criminologist Damian Zaitch from Utrecht University said he thinks the Netherlands has got its priorities wrong. 'Just 5% of cocaine smuggling is airborne so why do we pay so much attention to Schiphol?' he is quoted as saying. 'It would be sensible to switch this effort to Rotterdam.'

Almost 2 tons of cocaine seized off Puerto Rico coast

SAN JUAN -- A 1.8 ton cocaine shipment worth an estimated \$50 million that was thought to be destined for the U.S. market was seized off the coast of Puerto Rico, federal authorities said yesterday, in one of the largest drug busts there in recent years.

The shipment was intercepted on Monday evening on a 30-foot boat that was 12.5 miles off the resort town of Dorado on Puerto Rico's north coast.

The great majority of cocaine destined for the U.S. market is smuggled via Mexico, but U.S. officials have said that joint U.S.-Mexican counter-drug efforts have begun to push some of the traffic back into the Caribbean, an historically popular corridor during the heyday of Colombia's Medellin cartel in the 1980s and 1990s.

About 14 percent of U.S.-bound cocaine shipments, roughly 42 tons, was trafficked through the Caribbean in the first six months of 2013, and Puerto Rico and the neighboring Dominican Republic have

emerged as hubs of the burgeoning trade, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

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Loyal visitors honored at the Costa Linda Beach Resort

Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a group of guests as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill.

The honorees were Mr. Brian and Mrs. Kathleen Shiek from North Ville Michigan, Mr. Clifford and Mrs. Janet Carey from Never Sink NY and Mr. Thomas Holmgreen and daughter Mrs. Gail Mc Guinness from Connecticut.

All the honorees are loyal members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort.

The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Gloria Janga and Mrs. Miriam Rodriguez representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort.



US warns Russia against gas hikes to hurt the Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States warned Russia yesterday not to use energy costs as an instrument of political coercion, after Moscow scrapped its last gas price discounts for the Ukraine.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev earlier announced the move, effectively raising the price by \$100 to \$485 for every 1,000 cubic meters of gas.

Asked about the decision, White House spokesman Jay Carney warned "markets should determine energy prices. A country should not

use supply and pricing terms as tools of coercion to interfere in the Ukraine or anywhere else."

He said Washington was encouraging its allies on the Ukraine's western borders to reverse natural gas flows to let the Kiev government access more supplies if needed.

Carney's warning mirrored that of Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday before Russia's latest move as he attended a US-EU Energy Council meeting in Brussels.

"No nation should use en-

ergy to stymie a people's aspirations," Kerry said.

In another sign of Moscow's pressure on the Ukraine, Russian energy giant Gazprom demanded that Ukraine's Naftogaz take immediate steps to pay for previous gas deliveries, valued at over \$2.2 billion.

Tensions between Moscow and Kiev are running high after a pro-Western government came to power in Kiev following the fall of president Viktor Yanukovich and Russia seized the Crimea peninsula.



Washington : US President Barack Obama is watched by Gabriella Miller's family (L) as he signs the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act into law in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, DC, on April 3, 2014. The legislation, named in memory of 10-year-old children's health research advocate Gabriella Miller from Virginia, who recently died of brain cancer, redirects taxpayer dollars from political party conventions and instead uses funds for pediatric disease research. (AFP PHOTO)

NGO reports 2,118 arrests across Venezuela during protests

CARACAS -- Human rights non-governmental organization Foro Penal Venezolano (Venezuelan criminal forum) reported 2,118 arrests by yesterday across Venezuela. As many as 332 detentions have taken place in the state of Zulia, northwest Venezuela, one of the states -after Miranda (north)- with the largest number of arrests.

The information was provided to daily newspaper El Universal by Foro Penal's Executive Director Alfredo Romero, who met with coordinators from Zulia to find out about the situation in the region after actions taken by alleged pro-ruling party armed groups and troops of the People's Guard.

White House denies covert Twitter-style Cuba secret op

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday denied it used its overseas aid agency to mount a covert operation on social media to incite political unrest against Cuba's communist leaders. But the US Agency for International Development (USAID) did admit to building a Twitter-style application on which Cubans, who face strict curbs on expression, were able to "talk freely among themselves" consistent with universal rights and freedoms.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the program was a "development assistance" scheme targeted at Cubans facing government restrictions on information and had never been a secret. The program, first reported after an investigation, was debated in Congress and conducted within US law. It was not advertized to protect those who took part.



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Obama clears way for sanctions on S. Sudan rights abusers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama yesterday cleared the way for US sanctions against anyone on either side of South Sudan's civil war who targets UN peacekeepers, threatens peace moves or abuses human rights.

The president issued an executive order allowing the use of property and asset seizures and immigration and visa bans against government or rebel officials who are judged at a later date to have transgressed.

The move comes several weeks after the United States and the European Union warned of sanctions if President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar did not

make progress in peace talks and adhere to a ceasefire deal.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said in a statement that fighting between the two sides threatened to tear their young nation apart.

"The United States will not stand by as those entrusted with South Sudan's future put their own interests above those of their people," Carney said.

The Executive Order threatens sanctions against those who compromise peace, or who risk the security or stability of South Sudan or who obstruct the peace process, target UN peacekeepers or who are guilty of human rights abuses.

Senators vote to declassify CIA interrogation report


WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Senate's intelligence panel voted 11-3 yesterday to declassify hundreds of pages of its detailed report on the CIA's controversial Bush-era interrogation program.

The move allows Senator Dianne Feinstein, the powerful chair of the Intelligence Committee, to send the 400-page executive summary as well as key conclusions and recommendations to the

White House for review.

If President Barack Obama gives the green light, as he is expected to do, intelligence agencies would embark on a process of redacting certain details they determine should remain classified.

Feinstein said she hoped the redactions would be "as few as possible," and that she believed the process would take at least a month.



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Nobel writer Garcia Marquez hospitalized in Mexico



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Colombia's Nobel-winning writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the 87-year-old author of "One Hundred Years of Solitude," was hospitalized Thursday for undisclosed reasons in Mexico City, a health ministry official said.

Garcia Marquez, who made Mexico City his home more than three decades ago, was taken to the National Medical Science and Nutrition Institute in the south of the capital.

Mexican media reported that Garcia Marquez was hospitalized with pneumonia. El Universal said the writer was taken there at dawn.

Garcia Marquez made his last public appearance on March 6 when he came out of this house to greet journalists who visited him for his 87th birthday.

The author smiled, accepted gifts and posed for photographs, but he did not speak to reporters.

Winner of the 1982 Nobel literature prize, Garcia Marquez was a pioneer of the story-telling style known as magical realism, which he used to tell epic stories of love, family and dictatorship in Latin America.

Known affectionately as "Gabo," the author of "Love in the Time of Cholera" be-

came the most read Latin American author in the world and the godfather of a literary movement that bore witness to a continent in turmoil.

Born March 6, 1927, in the village of Aracataca on Colombia's Caribbean coast, Garcia Marquez was the son of a telegraph operator.

He was raised by his grandparents and aunts in a tropical culture with a heritage colored by a mix of Spanish settlers, indigenous populations and black slaves. His grandfather was a retired colonel.

The exoticism and legends of his homeland inspired him to write a slew of short stories and novels, including his masterpiece, "One Hundred Years of Solitude," which was translated into 35 languages and sold more than 30 million copies.

The book, published in 1967, is a historical and literary saga about a family from the imaginary Caribbean village of Macondo between the 19th and 20th century.

The novel turned the man with the mustache and thick eyebrows into an international star.

His passion for writing began in the early 1960s, when he moved to Mexico with his longtime partner and mother of his two children, Mercedes Barcha, after meeting his good friend and Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes.

Garcia Marquez wore a white liqui-liqui, a traditional costume with a high collar from his native region, to receive his Nobel prize in Sweden in 1982.

The Nobel committee awarded him the prize "for his novels and short stories, in which the fantastic and the realistic are combined in a richly composed world of imagination, reflecting a continent's life and conflicts."

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5,000 police complaints against Dutch populist Wilders

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch police have received around 5,000 complaints of discrimination against populist Geert Wilders after he called for "fewer Moroccans", the prosecutor's office said Thursday.

Police in The Hague have tallied around 5,000 complaints nationwide as of Wednesday, the public prosecutor said in a statement, but no decision has yet been taken on whether to prosecute the platinum-haired anti-Islam politician.

Wilders has faced an unprecedented wave of criticism, including from within his own Party for Freedom (PVV), after he promised his chanting supporters two weeks ago that he would arrange for there to be fewer Moroccans in the Netherlands.

The public prosecutor's office said last week it had stopped counting the hundreds of complaints filed



against Wilders and police stations produced partly pre-filled complaint forms targeting Wilders to save them time.

Wilders' PVV party had been the most popular in the Netherlands before the furor erupted, opinion polls said.

Television pictures at the March 19 post-local election rally showed Wilders in The Hague asking party faithful whether they wanted "fewer or more Moroccans in your city and in the Netherlands?"

"Fewer! Fewer!" the

crowd shouted, with a smiling Wilders answering: "We're going to organise that."

A court in 2011 acquitted Wilders on hate-speech charges, ruling that he had targeted a religion, which is permitted under Dutch free-of-speech laws, rather than a specific ethnic group.

Wilders, who is often reviled in Dutch immigrant communities for his fiery anti-Islam rhetoric, has in the past compared the Koran to Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and has called Islam a fascist religion.

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“Awesome local dishes!!”
Reviewed January 11, 2014

“Great Food Friendly Service”
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Condoms rebranded in South Africa as HIV infections rise

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - South Africa is seeking to re-brand its free condoms to appeal to young people after a new study showed rising HIV infections and flagging contraception use, the health department said on Thursday.

Condoms distributed by the government will come in a wider range of colours and flavours, as authorities seek to mend the damage done to their image when thousands of faulty condoms were recalled in January 2012.

The rebranding effort



comes as new figures released on Tuesday showed there were 470,000 new HIV infections in 2012, compared with 370,000 the year before.

A drop in the use of condoms is seen as one reason for the increased infection rate.

A government-funded survey of 38,000 people showed that "condom use has started slowing down."

In 2012, 36 percent of South Africans reported having used condoms during sexual intercourse, compared to 45 percent in 2008.

South Africa has the world's highest number of people living with HIV, a crisis that has seen millions of people placed on a vast state-sponsored treatment programme.

Around 6.4 million people -- 12.2 percent of the population -- were living with HIV or AIDS in 2012.

That is up from 10.6 percent in 2008, when the previous survey was conducted, which partly reflects better treatment.

The survey noted fewer AIDS-related deaths and less frequent transmission of the virus by pregnant mothers to their unborn children, in great part thanks to successful antiretroviral treatment.

Ebola Fatalities in West Africa Reach 83



The death toll from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa has risen to 83. The World Health Organization says all 83 deaths have occurred in Guinea, where there are a total 127 suspected and confirmed cases of the disease. Ebola is so virulent that those who do test positive can only wait to die in a special ward where they are treated by medical personnel wearing protective suits and gear. The Zaire strain detected in Guinea kills up to 90 percent of its victims, and with no cure all that can be done is to make patients comfortable as their organs begin failing. The West African nation of Guinea is among the poorest in the world, and is severely lacking in health care facilities outside Conakry. Those who have been exposed to Ebola in southern Guinea are kept in one ward.



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Spike in US poison calls from e-cigarettes

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Accidents involving kids and bottles of flavored liquid nicotine for e-cigarettes have led to a spike in calls to US poison control centers in recent years, health authorities said Thursday.

The number of monthly calls went from one in September 2010 to 214 in February 2014, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than half of the calls involved children under age five who had swallowed, inhaled or spilled the liquid on their skin or in their eyes.

The most common concerns were vomiting, nausea and eye irritation.

One death was reported, involving a person who committed suicide by injecting the liquid.

The total number of calls to poison centers for e-cigarette exposures alone (those

combined with any other exposure were not counted) was 2,405 from September 2010 to February 2014.

In comparison, there were 16,248 conventional cigarette exposure calls to poison centers in that period, mostly due to young children eating tobacco cigarettes.

The nicotine liquids that are heated and inhaled through the battery powered device can be particularly dangerous because they are not required to be packaged in childproof containers.

E-cigarettes are not subject to the same regulations as conventional cigarettes, although the US Food and Drug administration is currently deciding what, if any, measures it might take.

There are also no restrictions on sale to minors, among whom use of the devices, often called vaping, is on the rise.

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Baby gift for George as Queen meets Pope Francis



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis gave Queen Elizabeth II a royal orb for baby Prince George as the monarch met him for the first time Thursday, a low-key visit that is the 87-year-old monarch's first foreign trip since 2011.

The visit took place a day after the anniversary of the start of the Falklands War between Britain and Francis's native Argentina in 1982, and also came at a thorny moment in Anglican-Catholic relations -- though officials did not reveal the content of the closed-door discussions.

The pair capped their talks with a peculiar exchange of gifts that included a hamper of food products from the royal estates from the queen, which the pope reciprocated with the lapis lazuli and silver orb for her great-grandson.

Francis was taken aback when the queen's husband Prince Philip gave him a bottle of whiskey. When handed a traditional medal from the pope, the notoriously gaffe-

prone royal spouse quipped: "It's the only gold medal I've ever won!"

Philip, 92, also looked quizzically at another gift from the pope -- a decree from pope Innocent XI about Britain's Saint Edward the Confessor -- which was in Latin.

Dressed in lilac and wearing one of her trademark hats decorated with flowers, the British queen and her husband arrived 20 minutes late at the Vatican for their audience with the pontiff.

The queen, who is also "supreme governor" of the Church of England, apologized to the Catholic leader for the delay.

Her visit with pope followed lunch and a 20-minute meeting with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.

Upon arrival at the presidential Quirinale Palace, the royal couple were greeted with a military salute and crowds of supporters, some waving Union Jack flags.

Redfish offers an authentic taste of Arubiana close to low-rise resorts

Our team of taste-testers at THE MORNING NEWS have discovered a surprising island treat within easy reach of the island's principal resort areas. Redfish restaurant, located within the new Orange Mall, on the Sasaki highway next to the turn off for the "low rise" resorts, is an authentic "fish shack" with a charming, informal ambiance and al fresco dining.

Herbie Merryweather, founder of the Driftwood in Oranjestad, and owner of the deep sea charter boat of the same name, is a fanatic about fish. If you have that some appreciation for the sweet and singular flavor of fresh Caribbean seafood, than you will be very pleased with a meal at Redfish.

This is casual dining, and you will likely end up eating with your fingers. (They do provide moist towelette packets) The menu is, for the most part, the real deal, fresh grouper, or snapper (Piska Cora in Papiamentu, or Redfish) and shrimp. There are chicken and steak dishes to accommodate landlubbers, but make no mistake, you are there for the fish.

Too many restaurants on Aruba have taken to serving frozen farm fish filets, claiming it is grouper or snapper.



A pound of grouper

but you know you are getting fresh, locally caught fish when they are served in the steaks like they are at Redfish. Delicately coated with a sprinkling of flour and herbs, they are flash fried and the fish is moist and incredibly tender. The mild Creole sauce served on the side is one of the best we have ever tasted, and they serve some extra Papiaya Pica for those that like to spice it up a bit.

Portions are served by the pound and half pound, with your choice of whatever is fresh that day. We selected a pound of grouper and half pound of snapper, which were served with an ample supply of traditional island side dishes, and it was more

than enough for three hungry people. Combination platters of fish and shrimp, great for nibbling and watching a sporting event on their giant plasma screen, are also available.

The best part? The prices. Geared to a local trade, (and you will find islanders there in force for lunch). Open from noon until 10:00 PM, Redfish is providing something that has certainly been lacking close to the resort areas, an authentic taste of fresh caught fish, with a distinctive island flavor and ambiance.

Closed on Mondays, they accept cash and travelers checks only. Highly recommended.

Late Motown icon Marvin Gaye remembered on 75th birthday

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Family, friends and fans of Marvin Gaye came together Wednesday to pay joyful homage the late Motown legend and native Washingtonian on what would have been his 75th birthday. Gaye was shot and killed by his father on the eve of his 45th birthday in 1984, leaving behind a remarkable string of hits -- led by "Let's Get It On," "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "Sexual Healing" -- that remain pop, funk and soul classics. Fame awaited the young Gaye at Motown, the Detroit record label founded by Berry Gordy that revolutionized pop music in the 1960s, cranking out hits in the same production-line manner that General Motors turned out cars. His first solo hit, "Stubborn Kind of Fellow," charted in



1962, followed by such songs as "Can I Get a Witness," "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)" and "Ain't That Peculiar." Wrestling with drugs, drink and depression, and refusing to pay US taxes in protest at the Vietnam war, Gaye found inner peace in the early 1980s in seaside Ostend, Belgium, where he composed "Sexual Healing," his last big hit. The music fell silent on April 1, 1984 when, in the midst of a family altercation, Gaye was fatally shot twice in Los Angeles by his father, who used a .38 caliber pistol his son had given him to ward off intruders.

Sensors and satellites deployed to save Pompeii



ROME (AFP) - Ground sensors and satellites will be deployed in a new bid to keep the ancient Roman city of Pompeii from crumbling following a series of recent collapses at the sprawling and long-neglected site near Naples.

Italian aerospace and defence giant Finmeccanica on Thursday said it was donating the technology to the culture ministry in a 1.7 million euro (\$2.3 million) project entitled "Pompeii: Give it a Future".

The main aims are to assess "risks of hydrogeological instability" at the sprawling site, boost security and test the solidity of structures, as well as set up an early warning system to flag up possible collapses.

Finmeccanica said the project would last three years and that the results of satellite monitoring of a network of wireless sensors installed around the Roman ruins would be made available via the Internet.

Security guards will be supplied with special radio equipment as well as smartphone apps to improve communication that can pinpoint their position and the type of intervention required, Finmeccanica said.

Much of the technology is being provided by Finmeccanica subsidiary Selex ES, which also supplies electronic warfare equipment and drones to the military.

"We are offering our technology for the service of the country and its heritage," Finmeccanica's chief executive

Alessandro Pansa told reporters in Rome.

Pompeii is the second most visited archaeological site in Italy after the Colosseum and the Roman Forum in Rome, with around 2.5 million visitors every year.

Conservation workers last year began a 105-million-euro makeover of the UNESCO World Heritage landmark, funded by the Eu-

ropean Union to the tune of 41.8 million euros.

The project is seen as crucial to the survival of Pompeii after a series of collapses at the 44-hectare site in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius - the volcano that destroyed the city in 79 AD.

Visitors look at the Orto dei fuggiaschi (Garden of the Fugitives) in Pompeii, Italy.

Google exits \$1,000 stock club after special dividend



NEW YORK (AFP) - US technology giant Google Thursday exited the rarified club of \$1,000 stocks after creating a new class of shares that some say could be used to finance acquisitions. Google granted to holders of its existing "A" and "B" class of stock one share of the new non-voting "Class C" stock for each share of the other two classes. The special dividend, first announced in January and distributed late Wednesday, operates like a stock split. The existing group of "A" shares, which finished Wednesday's session at \$1,135.10, was trading at \$579.74 Thursday just after 1600 GMT under the "GOOGL" ticker. The new class of "C" shares was trading at \$579.38. Volumes were higher for the new shares, which trade under the ticker "GOOG." The third type of Google shares, "Class B," which are not traded on the exchange, grant 10 times the voting right of each "A" share and most are held by the California company's founders, Sergey Brin and Larry Page. Some analysts see Google's move as a sign the company plans to finance future acquisitions with a larger base of stock. The creation of the new class of Google shares means the S&P 500 index now counts 501 equities because it reflects both the "A" and "C" classes of Google shares.

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- Fish Soup \$6.90

MENU ITEMS
RED FISH MENU SAMPLE

- Fish Fillet pan fried \$18.55 with creole or garlic sauce
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- Chicken Sate \$10.85

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White House denies covert Twitter-style Cuba operation



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States on Thursday denied it used its overseas aid agency to mount a covert operation on social media to incite unrest against Cuba's communist leaders.

But the US Agency for International Development (USAID) did say it had created a Twitter-style application on which Cubans, subject to strict curbs on expression, were able to "talk freely among themselves" consistent with universal rights and freedoms.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said that the program was a "development assistance" scheme designed to allow Cubans facing government restrictions on information access to civil society and was not a secret.

He said the program, first reported by the Associated Press, was conducted within US law, and had not been a secret since it was debated in Congress.

USAID spokesman Matt Herrick said in a statement that USAID was proud to work in Cuba to "promote

human rights and universal freedoms" and to help information flow to its people, alongside its humanitarian operations.

The project was known as "Zunzueno" after the term for a Cuban hummingbird and was a platform for Cubans to "speak freely among themselves," said Herrick.

Questions were raised about the program after the initial AP report suggested that political content was to be introduced at a later stage to encourage Cubans to mount "flash mobs" and demonstrate against the communist government.

Despite the US denials, fears are likely to be expressed that the use of USAID in the program could politicize an agency which often relies on the goodwill of foreign governments to carry out humanitarian work.

The confrontation between the United States and Cuba is one of the world's last Cold War-era disputes and Washington has maintained an embargo on the communist country since 1962.

IMF : Tight budget less crucial with interest rates low

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Austerity budgets and public spending cuts are less critical to economic health as interest rates in the major advanced economies remain historically low, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

The IMF traditionally calls on its member nations, especially those receiving its financial support like Greece and Portugal, to rein in spending to reduce their budget deficits and public debt.

But the persistence of unusually low interest rates in the major economies has pushed the global lender into questioning -- at least on the margins -- its doctrine, according to an analytical chapter of its World Economic Outlook report released

ahead of next week's IMF/World Bank spring annual meetings.

Market rates paid by nations to finance themselves "have declined substantially" since the 1980s and now are even in "slightly negative territory" when taking into account inflation, the 188-nation IMF said.

Worldwide, the IMF said, the "10-year global real interest rates," a weighted average, has fallen from 5.5 percent in the 1980s, to 3.5 percent in the 1990s, to 2.0 percent between 2001 and 2008, and to slightly below zero in 2012.

The downward rates trend accelerated during the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, which drove the major cen-

tral banks, like the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, to lower their key rates to near zero to support their faltering economies.

According to the IMF, this trend should continue, notably because of investors' growing appetite for government debt, considered a safe investment.

"Real interest rates and the cost of capital are likely to rise only modestly from current levels," the report said.

In this scenario, states could choose to borrow to finance new spending without further deteriorating their finances because the cost of capital would be essentially zero, or even negative given inflation.

Survey: Japan posts top growth in clean energy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Japan last year stepped up spending on clean energy at a faster rate than any other country, despite a drop in the world's overall investment, a study said yesterday.

China remained the top investor in clean energy in 2013 but steep cutbacks in the European Union contributed to an 11 percent drop in global investment in the sector, the second straight year it has fallen, according to an annual survey.

Japan was a major exception to the trend, ramping up investment in clean energy by 80 percent year-on-year to \$28.6 billion -- nearly all in solar energy.

Japan, which has virtually no fossil fuel resources, has been looking to diversify its energy sources after the

Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster during the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Japan ranked third in investment behind the United States and China, which was by far the largest with \$54.2 billion put into clean energy in 2013, down slightly from the year before.

China remains the world's top producer of greenhouse gases blamed for climate change. It has promised to reduce the intensity of emissions but not the absolute

number.

The European Union, long at the forefront of efforts to fight climate change, saw steep falls amid austerity measures and questions over future incentives.

Investment tumbled 55 percent in Germany, 42 percent in France, 75 percent in Italy and 84 percent in Spain. Britain was an exception, with investment growing 13 percent to \$12.4 billion with more than half of it in wind energy.



MARIKANA : AFP photo shows striking miners gathered in the impoverished informal camp just outside the South African Platinum hub of Marikana yesterday. Government mediated talks -- that stalled through most of March -- have achieved little but widened the gap between the defiant union and the employers, Lonmin-- the world top three platinum producer with the miners and their families bearing most the brunt of the work stoppage. Over 80,000 workers downed tools across South Africa's platinum industry on January 23, holding out for a doubling of their entry-level salary to 12,500 rand (\$1,170) a month.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 04/03/2014	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.59	1.61	1.63
Britain	GBP	2.89	2.94	3.00
Switzerland	CHF	200.78	201.50	202.30
Netherlands	EUR	243.05	245.27	247.73
Sweden	SEK	26.41	27.13	27.93
Denmark	DKK	31.90	32.62	33.42
Norway	NOK	28.83	29.55	30.35
Japan (per 10,000)	JPY	169.82	171.37	173.09

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

Thousands march in Spain against austerity

MADRID, April 3, 2014 (AFP) - Tens of thousands of people marched in dozens of Spanish cities on Thursday against austerity measures enacted by the government, which is under pressure from the EU to reduce its public deficit.

Rallies were staged in Madrid and 53 other cities by more than 100 organisations, including Spain's two largest trade unions, the CCOO and UGT, as well as groups representing health and education services.

Several thousand people, many waving red-and-white labour-union flags, marched through the streets of the Spanish capital behind a large black-and-white banner that read: "The austerity policies must end".

Years of tax hikes combined with freezes and reductions in public-sector pay have caused a "brutal loss in

purchasing power" for many people.

The protests were held on the eve of a large demonstration planned in Brussels by the European Trade Union Confederation to demand the end of austerity policies in the European Union.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government has struggled to contain annual deficits by raising taxes, freezing public salaries and curbing spending in areas such as education and health care despite angry street protests.

The government says its painful reforms are delivering results after the economy emerged gingerly from recession in mid-2013.

Growth remains slow, however, and the unemployment rate still tops 26 percent as the nation struggles with the aftermath of a decade-long



Frankfurt am Main -- AFP photo shows the logo of the European currency Euro pictured in front of the European Central Bank, ECB in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. The ECB left its central refinancing rate unchanged at 0.25 percent at its monthly policy meeting, it said in a statement yesterday, holding its key interest rates unchanged for the fifth month in a row.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

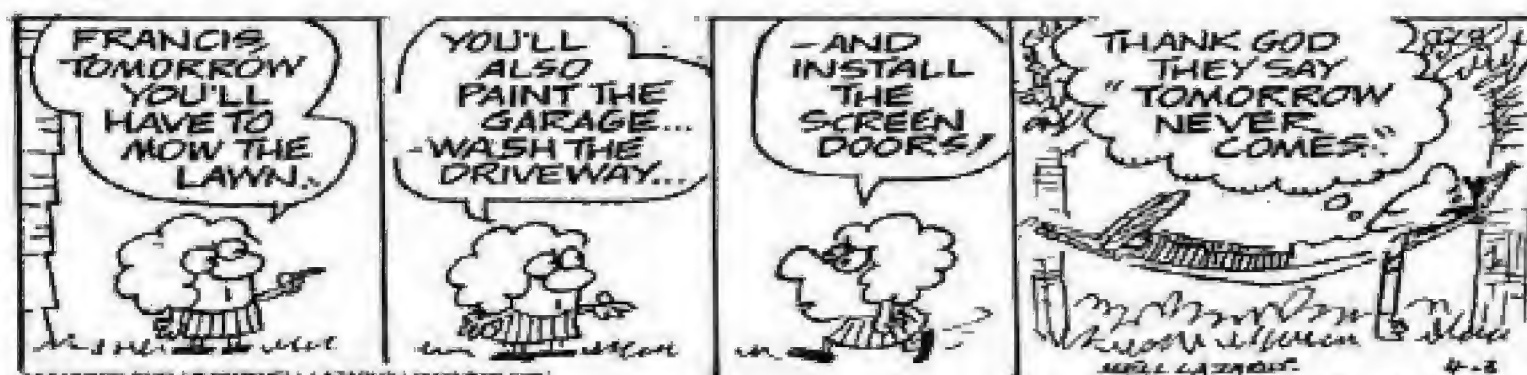
S	T	A	R	O	N	U	S	C	A	L
P	E	L	E	R	E	P	O	H	I	E
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S	S	T		O	P	U	S	E	G	G
H	R	S		G	E	N	E	N	O	T

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



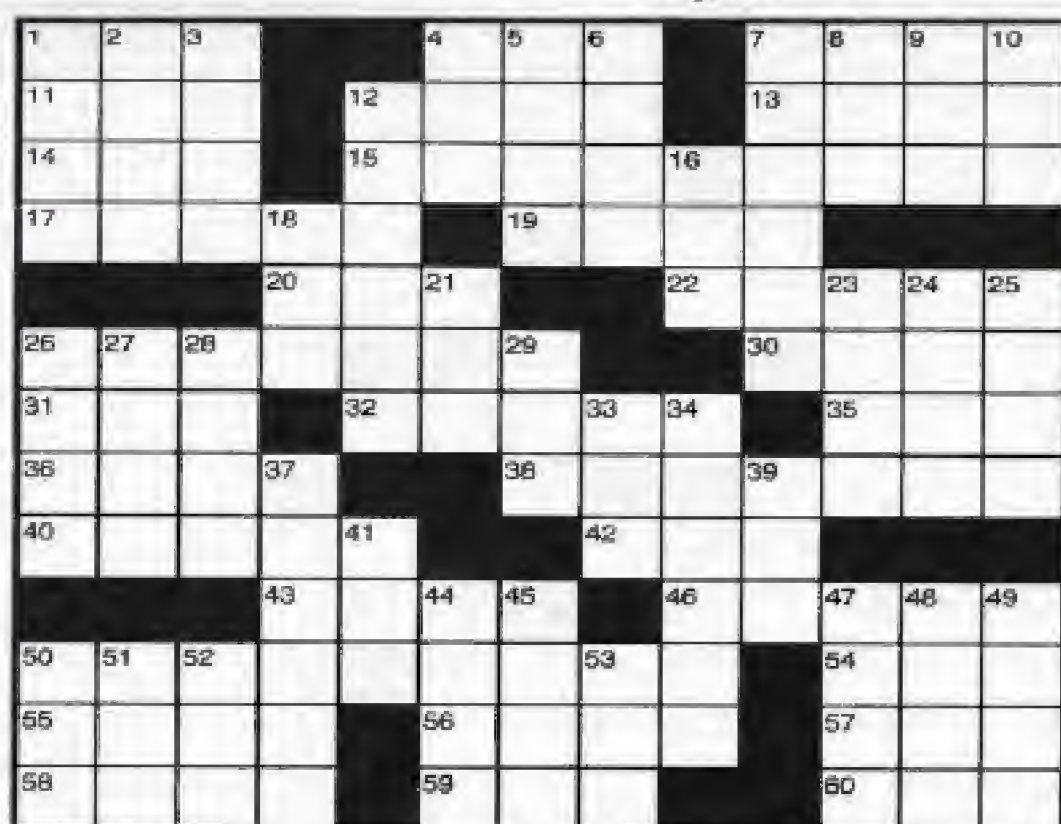
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ACROSS

1. Fourth mo.
4. Kin of assoc.
7. Insult
11. "Me," in Paris
12. Walkiki picnic
13. Rushed
14. Decade segments (abbr.)
15. Trumpeter Louis ____
17. Looks like
19. Command to a fly
20. Poisonous snake
22. Before beta
26. Nursemaids
30. Lanky
31. "____ Lost You"
32. Personal moral

code

35. "____ Tin Tin"
36. Inlet
38. Mistake removal
40. Prepare dough for bread
42. Biblical ship
43. Suddenly scared sound
46. Glee
50. Acts the slacker (2 wds.)
54. Wide shoe width
55. Independent
56. Shop sign
57. Building extension
58. Lincoln coin
59. Wooden

fastener

60. Provided a meal

DOWN

1. Irving and Breneman
2. Tiny opening
3. Move upward
4. Of us
5. Broadships
6. Stream
7. Wander idly
8. British bathroom
9. Coffee maker
10. Standard (abbr.)
12. TV collie
16. One ____ customer (2 wds.)

18. Groom, e.g.
21. Pampered one
23. Lima's country
24. Kojak's lack
25. History's Boleyn
26. Actor Nolte
27. Bard's river
28. "Party of Five" actress Campbell
29. "____ Loves You"
33. Retiree's acct.
34. Bizet opera
37. Young bird of prey
39. Snow runner
41. Prosecutors (abbr.)
44. Cease and desist
45. ____ cleaner
47. Shoal
48. Prefix for phone
49. Embraced
50. Col. Sanders's outfit
51. Rage
52. Dawson or Cariou
53. Ryan of romantic comedies

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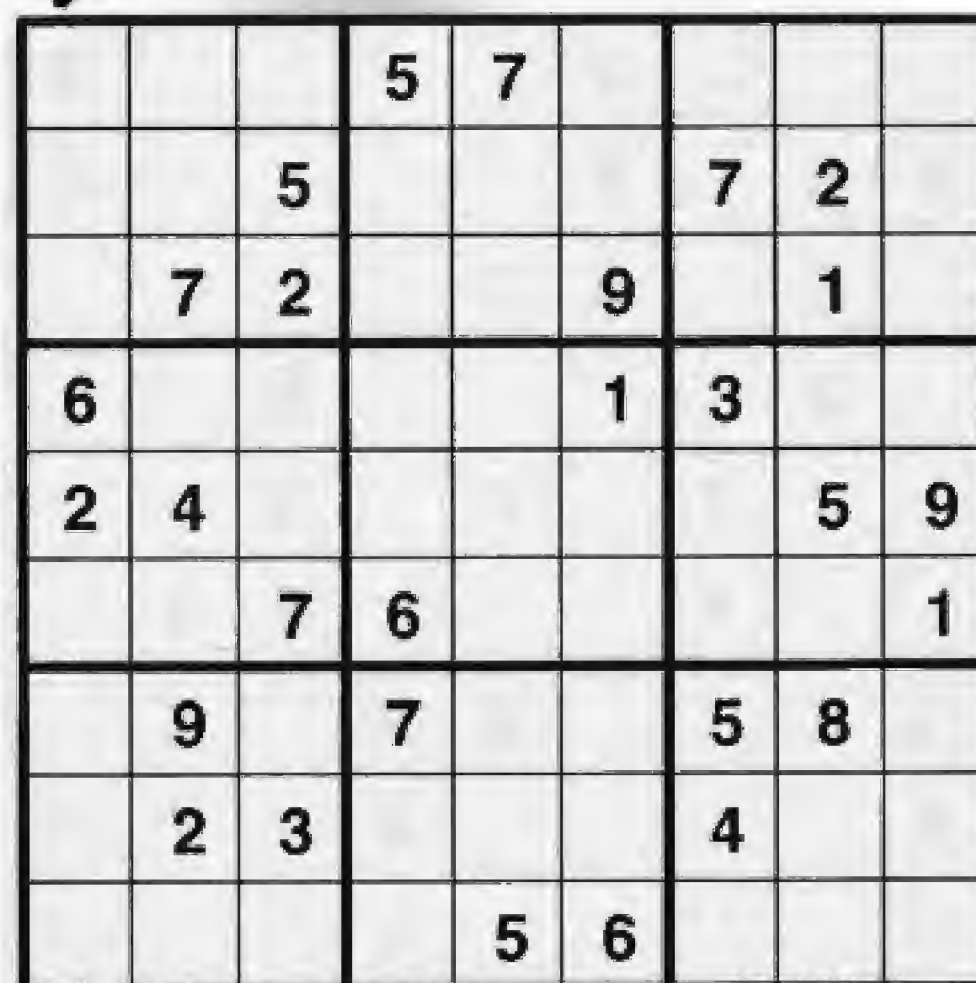
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	6	1	8	9	5	7	3	4
4	9	7	6	1	3	2	5	8
5	8	3	7	2	4	9	6	1
1	7	2	5	6	9	4	8	3
6	5	9	4	3	8	1	7	2
8	4	5	1	7	2	6	9	3
5	1	8	6	9	7	2	4	3
7	2	4	6	9	1	5	3	8
9	6	8	2	4	3	6	1	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at

8am, patrons can now order 2 eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on, after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie, so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are



ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches!

Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality, it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our



concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area, also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services pro-

gram. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their spe-

cific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Football: Barca transfer plans continue intact, insists president

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu has described the one-year transfer ban on signing players handed down on the club as a "grave injustice" and insisted they intend to make moves in the transfer market this summer.

Football's governing body imposed the sanction on Wednesday citing a "serious" breach of rules in the signing of 10 under-age players between 2009 and 2013.

"We are angry. We are the victims of a grave injustice. They are punishing the essence of our club, a model that has lasted 35 years," he said.

"It brings to mind the photo with the Ballon d'Or with Xavi, (Lionel) Messi and (Andres) Iniesta. FIFA know that we look after the kids in our system."

The Catalan club have announced their intention to appeal the decision firstly before FIFA's Appeal Committee and then, should the sanction not be overturned, to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

"We have had a meeting with our lawyers and we will make an appeal to FIFA. If FIFA continue with the sanction, we will present a new appeal to CAS and that will allow us to sign (players) for next year.

"We are not worried about next season. Our planning continues in exactly the same way. We will appeal and ask for cautionary measures.

"We believe a lot in our lawyers and they have told us we have the arguments for the sanction to be lifted."

Bartomeu added that Barca were on the verge of signing a goalkeeper, believed to be German international Marc-Andre Ter Stegen, to replace Victor Valdes who has indicated his intention to leave the club at the end of the season and a central defender to deputise for departing club captain Carles Puyol.

The affair is the latest in a long line of unsavoury stories that have damaged Barca's previously pristine image.

Bartomeu's predecessor Sandro Rosell was forced to resign in January after being accused of a misappropriation of funds in the signing of Brazilian star Neymar last year.

The deal which eventually led to the club being charged with tax fraud, although they have denied any wrongdoing.

And Bartomeu believes there may be foul play behind the serious of public attacks on the club's image.

"We have some evidence or indications to make us think that there is someone who wants to cause us harm.

"We will continue with our investigations until we find out who is behind all of this."

Bartomeu also criticised the timing of the punishment as he claimed FIFA met to decide what sanction would be imposed on the club over four months ago on November 28 and believes other clubs could be in for a similar ban if the same rules are applied equally.

"It is clear that the situation affecting Barca will also affect other clubs, both here and in other countries."

Briefs:



PHOENIX (AFP) - Infielder Brandon Crawford #35 of the San Francisco Giants tags out the sliding Paul Goldschmidt #44 of the Arizona Diamondbacks as he attempts to take second base during the third inning of the MLB game at Chase Field on Friday in Phoenix, Arizona.



BASEL (AFP) - Valencia's Chilean forward Eduardo Vargas (C) vies for the ball with FC Basel's defender Fabian Schaer (L) during the UEFA Europa League quarter-final first leg football match FC Basel vs Valencia CF Friday in Basel.



HUMBLE (AFP) - Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits a shot out of the bunker on the eighth hole during round one of the Shell Houston Open at the Golf Club of Houston yesterday in Humble, Texas. Scott

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Tennis: Bouchard holds off Venus in Charleston

CHARLESTON (AFP) - Canadian starlet Eugenie Bouchard held off former world number one Venus Williams 7-6 (3/6), 2-6, 6-4 on Thursday to reach the Family Circle Cup quarter-finals.

Bouchard, an Australian Open semi-finalist who is seeded sixth in the green claycourt WTA premier level event, saved two set points in the first-set tiebreaker, and rallied from a break down in the third to advance to a meeting with either second-seeded Serbian Jelena Jankovic or Croatian Ajla

Tomljanovic.

Williams followed her younger sister, world number one and top seed Serena Williams, out of the tournament.

Serena was stunned in her opening match by Slovakian Jana Cepelova, who followed up that big win with a 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 6-3 victory over 13th-seeded Russian Elena Vesnina.

Cepelova will face fellow Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova in the quarter-finals. Hantuchova breezed past Teliana Pereira of Brazil 6-2, 6-3.

Baseball: Darvish to make season debut Sunday



ARLINGTON (AFP) - Japanese star pitcher Yu Darvish will make his 2014 season debut Sunday for the Texas Rangers at Tampa Bay, the Rangers said Wednesday. Darvish had been pulled from his scheduled start in the Rangers' season-opener on Monday as he recovered from a stiff neck and he started the season on the disabled list. After he threw 86 pitches in a bullpen session on Tuesday without an ill-effect, he was deemed ready to go, with manager Ron Washington saying Darvish displayed the same command and velocity he'd shown in a solid pre-season. Darvish last pitched in a spring training game on March 16. He went 13-9 with a 2.83 earned-run average and a major-league best 277 strikeouts over 209 2/3 innings last season and finished second in voting for the Cy Young Award as the American League's top pitcher. The Rangers are 2-1 for the fledgling season having won the last two games of a three-game set against Philadelphia.

Boxing: Pacquiao-Mayweather could still happen: Roach

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Trainer Freddie Roach says avenging losses to Timothy Bradley and Juan Manuel Marquez are the top items on Manny Pacquiao's to-do list, but believes the Filipino will one day face Floyd Mayweather.

But Hall of Fame trainer Roach said Pacquiao's legacy depends more on turning the tables on the two opponents who beat him in 2012 than on a belated, late-career tilt at Mayweather.

"In the history books you have to avenge your losses, you have to avenge your losses in life," Roach said Wednesday at his Wild Card gym in Los Angeles, where Pacquiao's media workout drew a throng.

Pacquiao, the former world champion in eight weight divisions, will get his shot at retribution against Bradley in Las Vegas on April 12.

Both fighters are calling it a chance for redemption, after Bradley beat Pacquiao by a controversial split decision in June 2012 -- a bout that many observers thought Pacquiao had dominated.

"We feel we got robbed in the last fight -- now we need to be sure that we get the victory," said Pacquiao, 35, who will be fighting to regain the World Boxing Organization welterweight crown he surrendered to Bradley.

Six months after losing to the American, Pacquiao was knocked out in the sixth



round by Mexico's Marquez in the fourth bout between the two.

If Pacquiao beats Bradley and Marquez beats American Mike Alvarado in May, a fifth Pacquiao-Marquez fight could be on the cards.

"I'm not thinking about the next fight," Pacquiao said. "I'm thinking about this fight."

However, Pacquiao can never escape speculation about a matchup with unbeaten Mayweather.

In late 2009 and early 2010, Pacquiao and Mayweather were considered the world's top pound-for-pound fighters and record profits were expected from a showdown.

But a disagreement over pre-fight blood testing scuttled talks.

Mayweather vowed never again to do business with Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum, but the subject never goes away.

"I've thought about it so much, I've had dreams about that fight," Roach said.

While he added that it seems to be "getting further away instead of closer" Roach added that he thought

it would happen simply because there are so few big-draw opponents for Mayweather and Pacquiao as they seek to extend their careers and cement their legacies.

Roach thinks meeting Pacquiao has become more important for Mayweather.

At 45-0 with 26 knockouts, the 37-year-old Mayweather is approaching the 46-0 career mark of retired Welsh star Joe Calzaghe and the iconic 49-0 mark of heavyweight legend Rocky Marciano.

But Roach said that unbeaten record loses some gloss without a Pacquiao fight on it.

In the meantime, Pacquiao is calmly getting on with the business of preparing for Bradley, who has twice defended the title he won from Pacquiao and taken his record to 31-0 with 12 knockouts.

In his only fight of 2013 Pacquiao defeated Brandon Rios to take his record to 55-5 with two draws and 38 knockouts.

Ahe saw from Bradley in their first fight that concerned him, Pacquiao thought for a moment, and said: "No, nothing."

Aruba's athletics delegation wins numerous medals



Athletics is another sport which took place during the Interinsular Games in Curacao.

A group of young people accompanied by Felix "Wivi" Pina and Lisandra Maduro

travelled to Curacao as coach for the Aruba team. Accompanying the team were Jacqueline Ponson-van Putten of IBISA, who led the group.

IBISA afforded non member students of a club to represent Aruba in Curacao.

Young people from Curacao, Bonaire and Aruba participated in the "Bula Leu", (high jumping), Ball Throwing, Sprint 60m and 80m and run a distance of 400m and 600m.

Winners received gold medal for first prize, second prize silver and third prize a bronze medal. Aruba can look back on a tremendous participation of our young people in this Interinsular Games. IBISA congratulates all the participants for their excellent work.

For all the pictures see Facebook or www.ibisa-aruba.org.

IBISA is now preparing for the closure of the 2014 Interinsular Games to take place on the 11 to 13th of April. Aruba expects to receive young people from Curacao and Bonaire to participate in the sport of Volleyball for girls, and girls football. Everyone is cordially invited to come out and and see these games.



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